Advertising and Visual Publicity had launched a campaign in 2006 for propagating awareness about the Right to Information Act. Further initiatives have been taken up for publicity of the Act through media.

(b) to (d) The information is not centrally maintained.

Percentage of reservation

1302. SHR1 PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of reservation for SC and ST in the direct recruitment posts for Group A,B,C and D in the vacancies of Central Government establishments;

(b) when were these percentages fixed and by whom; and

(c) the reasons for not revising these percentages on the basis of census figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHR1 SURESH PACHOURI): (a) In case of direct recruitment on all India basis by open competition, reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is available at the rate of 15% and 7.5% respectively. In case of direct recruitment on all India basis, otherwise than by open competition, reservation to them is available at the rate of 16.66% and 7.5% respectively. In case of direct recruitment to Group C & D posts, normally attracting candidates from a locality or a region, reservation for SCs and STs is generally determined keeping in view the proportion of their population in the respective States/UTs.

(b) Present rate of reservation for SCs in case of direct recruitment on all India basis otherwise than by open competition was fixed in September, 1947 and current rates of reservation for SCs in case of direct recruitment by open competition and for STs in case of direct recruitment on all India basis by open competition as well as otherwise than by open competition were fixed in March, 1970. Quantum of reservation in case of direct recruitment to Group C and D posts on local or regional basis has been revised with effect from 5.7.2005.

(c) Quantum of reservation in case of direct recruitment to Group C and D posts, normally attracting candidates from a locality or a region is generally revised keeping in view the proportion of their population as per the 2001 Census. The Supreme Court has held that the Constitution enables the State to make provisions for adequate representation and not proportionate representation to backward classes in services. It has also held that total reservation for SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes should not exceed the limit of 50%. In case of direct recruitment on all India basis, reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes is already either 49.5% or 50%. Therefore, it has not been found possible to revise the quantum of reservation on the basis of census figures.